

WEEKLY EDITION

OF THE

THOMAS G. NEWMAN,
EDITOR.

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APICULTURAL NEWS ITEMS.

EDITORIAL AND SELECTED.

"Let us then uniting bury
All our idle feuds in dust;
And to future conflicts carry,
Mutual faith and common trust."

Hum, sweet hum—That of the honey-bee.

Grief counts the seconds; happiness forgets the hours.

If a boy wishes to ascertain whether bees see or not—let him put his finger into the entrance of the hive.

"He is not worthy of the honey-comb, that shuns the hive because the bees have stung."—*Shakespeare*.

What is the difference between a bee and a donkey? One gets all the honey, the other gets all the whacks (wax).

Bee-keepers should take good care of their basswood trees, as well as set out more for the bees. They are valuable for honey, as well as good for shade.

In the sheep-bees lawsuit we fancy Mr. Powers will find it difficult to identify Mr. Freeborn's bees, or to prove by eye-witnesses that the bees made an aggressive attack on the sheep and injured them.

The Michigan State Fair will be held at Kalamazoo on Sept. 14-18, 1885. The premiums in the Apianian Department amount to \$300. The premium list (containing 112 pages) will be sent upon application to the Secretary, J. C. Sterling, Monroe, Mich.

The Tri-State Fair will be held at Toledo, O., from Sept. 7 to 12, 1885. Dr. A. B. Mason, of Wagon Works, O., is superintendent of the apianian department, where \$212 are offered as Premiums. Send to Dr. Mason for Premium List.

Mr. A. J. King has severed his connection with the *Bee-Keepers' Magazine*. It will be published hereafter by Messrs. John Aspinwall and W. B. Treadwell. Both Mr. King and the new publishers have our best wishes. Mr. King has been in "the editorial harness" for 12 years, and now with failing health seeks rest, for recuperation.

The outlook, although not as bright as it might be, owing to the light crop of honey produced this year, has fair promises for the future. Colonies generally are strong, and next spring will probably find them in good condition for a profitable summer's work.

The Shelby County Fair is to be held at Harian, Iowa, from Sept. 22 to 25, 1885. As it offers the astonishingly large sum of one dollar as a premium in the Apianian Department, the display will, no doubt, be proportionate to the liberality of the Fair managers!!

The Fairs are now being held all over the country, and any one attending such and wishing to get up a club for the BEE JOURNAL will be furnished with sample copies free. Send for them a week or ten days before they are needed, so as to be sure of having them in time. We will also send a colored Poster of the BEE JOURNAL, when requested, to put up over the exhibits.

The White Sulphur Springs in Frederick County, Va., is represented on our desk by its illustrated 24-page catalogue. It is kept by Mr. E. C. Jordan, one of the principal bee-keepers of Virginia, and we notice that honey is among the attractions of the dining-room.

When Marketing Extracted Honey, it is a sad blunder to use barrels holding from 300 to 500 pounds—they are too large to be desirable for the trade, too bulky to be handled with care in transportation, and too dear to be lucrative to the producer, for honey put up in such large barrels is subject to a discount of one cent per pound, because of the difficulty in disposing of it without repacking and dividing into smaller lots.

As winter approaches, mice are almost sure to infest the hives if openings sufficient are left for their entrance. Wax is a non-conductor of heat, and besides enjoying the heat generated by the bees, which answers the purpose to them of a base-burner, the honey and bee-bread furnishes food, and the comb fine bedding. Care should be taken that no entrance is left large enough for the mice to enter, else much of the comb and honey may be destroyed.—*Indiana Farmer*.

A lady bee-keeper has gone. We regret to learn from Mr. L. R. Jackson, Urmeysville, Ind., that he has lost his devoted wife. On Aug. 27, he wrote as follows: "My wife died on Aug. 25, after a few hours of pain. She had kept 30 colonies of bees of her own, and managed them well and profitably. She was a close reader of the BEE JOURNAL, and argued points well. She and myself lost all of our bees last winter, but we were getting a good start again; now I am alone, and the loss is severe."

A bee-keepers' picnic was held at George's Hill, Philadelphia, Pa., on Friday, Aug. 21. At 11 a. m. they were called to order by President H. Townsend, and talked on several interesting topics. Sec. Hahman read some extracts from the BEE JOURNAL. Mr. Stout exhibited some finely marked Italian bees, and Mr. Arthur Todd, taking a young bee between his finger and thumb, exhibited its golden bands. The picnic ended about 6 p. m.

Comb honey, soon after removal from the hives, should be carefully examined; if any moth-worms are discovered, pile the honey up in a closed room, and fumigate it with sulphur. This should be repeated as often as any worms are discovered.

When estimating the quantity of honey in a hive, says an exchange, it is best to examine each comb separately. Ascertain by actual weight the amount of honey which a comb of an average thickness will contain, and from that estimate the amount in each hive. Allow for the weight of the combs, especially if old, and also the amount of pollen they may contain. A little practice will soon enable one to judge quite correctly, by simply lifting one comb after another from the hive, as to how much honey they contain. For out-door wintering each hive should contain at least 25 pounds; for in-door wintering, or where the hives are well protected, 20 lbs. will do.

Extracted honey, if not already sealed by the bees when extracted, should be placed in open vessels and allowed to ripen, before it is put into cans, jars, etc., for the retail trade. If to be sold in barrels or kegs, do not put in the bung, but cover the hole with fine wire-cloth to keep out insects. We have just examined a lot of honey put up in cans before it was ripe, and as it has fermented, it presents a very disagreeable sight—about one-fourth of it is covering the floor; it looks frothy and tastes sour. All this waste is the result of the honey not being properly ripened. We have so often called attention to the necessity of ripening extracted honey, that we are surprised that so a important matter should be neglected.

Correspondents will please take a hint. Do not write any more on subjects that are so stale and "worn out" as are "pollen," "diarrhea," and the like. We are sick of them, and believe our readers are also. Give us a rest now, for at least a year.

Another thing: do not think it your duty to "pitch into" every thing that you cannot endorse. If you have some valuable thoughts on such a subject, write them out, leaving others to decide which of the two—you or the other writer—are the nearest to the correct theory. In other words, please do not want so badly to sting somebody! Write out your views, and leave the conclusions or theories of others alone. Give your own thoughts in an independent way.

We learn that Mr. M. L. Trester, superintendent of bees and honey at the Nebraska State Fair, to be held at Lincoln, Nebr., on Sept. 11 to 18, has succeeded in having "a bee-yard" enclosed, on the Fair ground. The fence is made partly of boards and partly of screen wire—the wire being just right for visitors to look through to see the bees handled. A premium of \$40 is offered for the colonies that will gather the most pounds of honey in 20 days; and on Aug. 26 quite a number of colonies were weighed in the yard and then sealed; after locking the gate they are to be left undisturbed until the end of the trial; then they are to be weighed again. On account of the probability of the Lincoln hotels being crowded, we are informed that Mrs. Trester has, at the request of many friends, consented to keep "open house," for "bee-keepers' headquarters," during the Fair.



WITH
REPLIES by Prominent Apirists.

Building Brace-Combs.

Query, No. 105.—Suppose a strip $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch thick and the width of the top-bar be put across the frame, leaving a suitable space between the strip and the top-bar; would the bees satisfy their propensity to build brace-combs by putting it in such space, and build none between the top of the frame and the bottom of the one above it? If they would, then why not use such an arrangement instead of a slat honey-board? What thickness of strip and width of space is best?—Maine.

I think it would answer the purpose, but not so well as if there was a break-joint arrangement.—DR. C. C. MILLER.

I am sure I do not know. I see no reason why they might not, yet they will propolize where the frames touch. From two years' experience, I am satisfied that I must have double bee-space between the brood-chamber and sections, and some between the brood-chamber and second-story for extracting. I also want nothing but reversible frames.—PROF. A. J. COOK.

No practical bee-men use a slat honey-board now; they all use a cloth, and only leave enough space between tiers to allow a bee to pass between the comb.—DADANT & SON.

I doubt the utility of such a device. If "Maine" thinks it would be useful, he can easily settle the matter by experimenting on a few hives, using different thicknesses of strips and width of spaces until the right dimensions are secured.—G. M. DOOLITTLE.

The only way to ascertain is to make a test. I apprehend, however, that no satisfactory test could be made, as no 2 colonies would work alike. My experience is that braces are only put where needed to strengthen and support the combs; and I think the strip mentioned above would have no effect whatever.—J. E. POND, JR.

I have had the same thought, and it is no doubt correct that such an arrangement would tend to keep the brace-combs away from the upper receptacles or cover. It would serve much the same purpose that the slat honey-board would, if each slat came directly over the top-bars of the brood-frames; but you would in either case be annoyed with many times more brace-combs than with the honey-board as it is—with its slats exactly breaking joints with the brood-frames below.—JAMES HEDDON.

Just as you state it, I am unable to see any advantage to be gained by such an arrangement. To make the two top-bars of the same width will cover the usual openings between the frames. If the top bars of the frames are made not less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, so as to fill the whole space between the frames, and are slitted in the centre the full length of the inside of the frame, so as to bring the opening right over the centre of the

comb-bar, which is just bee-space below the top-bar, you will get all the advantages that the recess honey-board can give. I have a few frames in use made as I have described them, and I will give them a fair trial. I make the broad top-bars 5-16 of an inch thick, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide. The comb-bar is the same as to thickness, but is only $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch wide. The opening in the centre of the top-bar is $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch. I regard $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch sufficient bee-space for any and all purposes.—G. W. DEMAREE.

Killing off Drones.

Query No. 106.—What could my drones have done that the bees are killing them all off? What is the cause and what will be the result? I have 10 colonies that wintered well in the cellar without the loss of a colony, and which are now strong in bees and brood, and are working well on white clover. They have cast only two swarms. They are making a business of killing drones, as much so as if it were in September. The weather is very bad for them, as it is cold with terrible rains and winds, and variations of 30 degrees in the temperature.—E. J. C.

The question answers itself. The very fact that "the weather is bad for them," is reason sufficient for them to kill off the drones. The time of itself makes no difference to bees, but the weather affects them greatly. I have had a general slaughter of drones right in the midst of the white clover harvest, owing to 3 or 4 days of cold, rainy weather.—J. E. POND, JR.

I think that your bees are passing through a short honey-dearth, added to the fact that they have already increased, they are contemplating no further use for the drones. Unless you are extensively engaged in queen-rearing, I think the "result" will be favorable.—JAMES HEDDON.

The very bad weather is the probable explanation.—W. Z. HUTCHINSON.

The bees are killing off their drones because of the cold weather and rains which you mention. It is quite evident that their reason for doing this is "short crop."—DADANT & SON.

Your drones are not "sinners above other" drones, in that, that they are being killed off. You give the true cause of their persecution in your concluding remarks. Continued bad weather discourages the bees, and makes increase out of the question with them, and they proceed to drive out the drones as useless consumers. Nevertheless, nature will not make the mistake of destroying the whole of them. The season has been an unfavorable one here, and hardly a day has passed that the drones were not persecuted, and yet I still have drones. The season has been so bad that even nuclei with virgin queens were cross with their drones.—G. W. DEMAREE.

The failure of flowers, or nectar secretion and unfavorable weather often cause colonies to kill their drones as early as May and June, as well as later on. At such times, if drones are just hatching, they are dragged out at once.—DR. G. L. TINKER.

The last half of the question answers the first part. Cold and wet

gives no honey-flow, which caused the bees to destroy drones. The phrase, "working well on white clover," does not correspond well with "only two swarms that are killing drones" and "cold with terrible rains and winds."—G. M. DOOLITTLE.

Although appearing to work busily, they are probably not storing sufficiently to afford the presence of these "gentlemen of leisure."—DR. C. C. MILLER.

A "Singing" Queen.

Query, No. 107.—What is the cause of my Italian queen singing like a laying hen? She sings while moving among the bees as well as when still, and so loudly that she can be heard 5 feet away with the hive closed. The day before I heard this strange noise, I had cut out all of the queen-cells, and after doing so, I thought that I had overdone it, as I could not find the queen—having gone through the hive twice, the second time with help to look for her. The next day I resumed my search for her, but before doing so, I stopped to look after a Holy-Land queen that I had introduced into an adjoining hive, when I heard a noise as if a bee was in distress in my supposed queenless colony. Upon opening the hive to see the cause and look for my lost queen, I very soon found her passing among the bees and singing as happily as a lark. It was not a piping noise, but a regular singing like a laying hen. There was not a queen-cell in the hive at this time, I am sure.—W. H. R.

Queens often make this singing noise, called "piping," when alarmed.—W. Z. HUTCHINSON.

I have never heard of such a case.—DR. C. C. MILLER.

I could not tell, never having seen or heard of such a case. I have heard caged queens make a noise similar to the one described, but what made this queen "sing" in the hive, I cannot tell.—JAMES HEDDON.

"Piping" queens are not so very rare that they attract more than passing attention of the experienced apiarist. I opened a nucleus hive the other day to see if the young queen's progeny had begun to hatch, and the queen was "piping" loud and clear. She does not "sing," in my estimation. In my experience such queens are hard to "introduce" on account of liability of being "balled" by the bees. This piping trait in individual queens indicates a cross, impatient disposition.—G. W. DEMAREE.

I suppose that queens, like people, may sing or whistle when they are happy. This one was overjoyed at the disappearance of her rivals.—DR. G. L. TINKER.

I give it up, as I have never heard or seen anything of the kind.—G. M. DOOLITTLE.

The Illinois State Fair will be held in Chicago during the week commencing Monday, Sept. 14, 1885 and promises many attractions.

The St. Louis Fair opens Monday, Oct. 5, and continues for six days. The premium list contains 24 departments, and \$73,000 is offered in premiums. A rate of one fare for the round trip has been made by all railroads running within 500 miles of St. Louis. \$130 are offered as premiums in the Apirarian Department. Any of our subscribers desiring a copy of the premium list will receive one free, by addressing Festus J. Wade, Sec., 718 Chestnut St., St. Louis, Mo.

CORRESPONDENCE

Explanatory.—The figures BEFORE the names indicate the number of years that the person has kept bees. Those AFTER, show the number of colonies the writer had in the previous spring and fall, or fall and spring, as the time of the year may require.

This mark ⊙ indicates that the apiarist is located near the centre of the State named: ♂ north of the centre; ♀ south; ◊ east; ◊ west; and this ♂ northeast; ◊ northwest; ◊ southeast; and ♀ southwest of the centre of the State mentioned.

For the American Bee Journal.

Introducing Valuable Queens.

REV. L. L. LANGSTROTH.

The following facts will show what great caution is needed in introducing valuable queens:

On July 22 a queen was removed from a strong colony, and the next day a caged queen was given them. The third day, judging from their quiet motions on the cage, that they were ready to receive her, I arranged to have them liberate her. Upon examining them on July 27, the queen was well circled, but had not begun to lay. The bees were building a number of queen-cells, which I destroyed. On July 28, I destroyed many queen-cells. The queen was well attended, but there were no eggs. On the 29th I destroyed a drone-larva to which they were giving the royal treatment; there were only three eggs. On the 30th I found many eggs laid, but no queen-cells.

Now suppose that I had neglected to examine this colony and destroy these queen-cells—the bees would have gone on with them, and in due time the queen I had given them would have led off a swarm, or would have been compelled to fight a rival, or would, for a time at least, have shared her rights with another. Such occurrences are by no means rare. When largely engaged in queen-rearing, they were witnessed many times in my apiary.

Another experience will show more fully how unsafe it is to infer that all will go on right, if only the new queen has been accepted by the bees. A queen caged 24 hours was prepared for liberation, and the only comb from which they could rear queens, removed. They acted just as though they were black bees made hopelessly queenless—some running in a distracted manner over the front of the hive, and others taking wing.*

Supposing that the presence of a queen, though caged, would soon reconcile them to the loss of their brood, I left them for a short time. Upon my return the air was filled with robber bees, against which the nucleus made no defense. Covering it with a

sheet, and removing it to a new location, the robbers were allowed to escape, and the brood restored, to the great delight of the bees.

Fresh honey was now given them, as the robbers had stolen nearly all that they had. Finding that they defended their stores, they were restored to their old stand. Royal cells were found well under way, next day, but no signs of the queen. Six days later the queen was found destroying the cells of rival queens. She had not laid a single egg! but 12 hours after having her own way, she laid freely. If the colony had been a large one, she might not have been allowed to destroy these queen-cells.

When the introduced queen is lost in this way, the one that supplants her may be black or hybrid, and its owner, ignorant of the real facts, may lay all the blame upon the innocent queen-dealer! It is not always the case that a queen, when well received, will refuse to lay, because the bees are bent on building royal cells; often they will lay quite freely.

Every year's experience only impresses me more forcibly with the truth of what I said at some length to the Cincinnati Convention in 1871, that it was not safe to assert of bees, any more than of human beings, that under what seems to us to be precisely similar circumstances, they will invariably do the same thing.

Oxford, ♀ Ohio, Aug. 15, 1885.

For the American Bee Journal.

Eight or Ten Frame Hives?

JAMES HEDDON.

I have read Mr. C. P. Dadant's article on page 535, and I am considerably surprised that so practical a producer of honey should entertain views so widely differing from so many of our best and most experienced honey-producers. Looking at the matter in the light of my own experience, I can account for these wide differences of opinion in the following three ways:

1. Location and climate may have much to do with it.

2. Smaller brood-chambers contracted to even less capacity, during that period when the production of honey rather than brood, is desirable, have their special advantages in the production of comb honey; and as Mr. Dadant is a producer of extracted honey almost exclusively, I presume he has never given the smaller brood-chambers a fair trial.

3. It is not impossible that he is mistaken. He favors the production of extracted as more profitable than that of comb honey, which, in my location, and I believe in my latitude, is a decided mistake, and I feel confident that the future will sustain me in this opinion.

In my former article I tried to show why there was little or no more capital invested in five 8-frame than in four 10-frame Langstroth hives. As Mr. D. only asserts to the contrary, I need say nothing further regarding it. In my personal experience with many hundred colonies in 8 and 10-

frame hives, I find not the least difference in the number of swarms cast from them.

I hardly know what Mr. D. means by colonies going "without queens for 30 days." There exists no such queenlessness in my system of management. Neither does the system necessitate the buying of a queen at all; nor special efforts in rearing them, and I keep my combs, as a whole, better occupied with brood, and get more surplus by so doing than I ever could, or believe any one can get with any 10-frame hive, in any place.

Mr. Dadant conveys the idea that I should use hives holding combs equal to the capacity of my queens. If I should do so, I should have to place about 20 to 30 Langstroth combs with most of my queens, at certain seasons of the year. He says that Mr. Adam Grimm aimed to sell bees, so adopted a smaller hive. His son, when here, said that he changed to 8-frame hives because he liked them much better for the production of comb honey.

I do not know that Mr. Langstroth is now a producer of honey of any kind; or if he is, it may be extracted honey, the same as Mr. Muth; and as to 8 or 10-frame brood-chambers for extracted honey, the question may be said to hinge upon how much one is inclined toward the horizontal vs. the "tiering-up" system. I have twice tried both extensively, and I choose the latter decidedly. For the last two years my colonies in brood-chambers containing 19 frames 12x12 inches, have swarmed fully as much as those in 8-Langstroth-frame hives.

Mr. Dadant says that my contraction plan limits the queen to a capacity of 1,600 eggs per day, and it looks as though I thought that the less bees I had, the better. Certainly there are times when the less bees we have hatching, the better; and during the period that I contract the hive I do not care to furnish combs, food, and nurse bees to produce more than a good swarm of bees every 21 days, which the 5 reversible combs will do.

There are yet left such comb honey producers as Mr. Doolittle and Mr. Bingham, using hives whose brood-chambers contain considerably less capacity than the 8 Langstroth combs. There are also many others besides Mr. Hutchinson and myself whose works argue in favor of the superiority of small brood chambers for comb honey production. I need not say anything of the comfort of handling these less cumbersome hives. Mr. D. says that he states facts, not theories—facts long and thoroughly tested, and the tests still going on. The same may be said of those who adhere to the smaller brood-chambers, except that their tests have shown them that they cannot afford to go on testing any farther in this direction.

I heartily agree with Mr. Dadant, that beginners should not blindly imitate any one's favorite methods, but adopt such as look reasonable, and test them as far as they are able, holding fast to all that they find valuable.

The philosophy of the superiority of small brood-chambers may be found

*I have often noticed that bees will care more for larvae from which they can rear queens, than for a caged strange queen.

in my article on page 486, and, as I believe, is unanswerable.
Dowagiac, 9 Mich.

For the American Bee Journal

A Visit Among Ohio Apiarists.

GEO. W. YORK.

After spending nearly a year and a half of incessant clerical labor in Chicago, on Aug. 3 I started for a two weeks' vacation at my old country home, in Randolph, Portage Co., O., for the purpose of visiting relatives and friends, and to recreate amid the quiet scenes incident to a rural life.

During my vacation I had the pleasure of visiting several bee-keepers, prominent among whom were two at whose apiaries I spent considerable time in witnessing their various methods of managing bees in the production of that most delicious of all sweets—honey.

My first visit was made on Aug. 11 to the apiary of Mr. Henry Crist, of Lake, Stark Co., which county is adjoining that of Portage. Mr. Crist, is one of the pioneers in bee-keeping, having been engaged in keeping bees for 34 years; and for 20 years he has been a constant reader of the BEE JOURNAL. His age is 72; but judging from the vivacity which he manifests in regard to the culture of bees and the production of honey, one would think that he was only in the noon-day of life. He is a pleasant old gentleman, and one who seems to delight in imparting that valuable knowledge which can be obtained only by years of experience. It was really an inspiration to listen to his interesting description of his methods of manipulation in the apiary.

For the past eight years his success in wintering bees has been exceedingly good, as he has not lost a single colony during that time. He wintered 11 colonies through the past severe winter. They were in hives that were placed inside of boxes 5 inches larger than the hives; the space around each one being packed with chaff, and a 6-inch chaff-cushion placed over the hive, just filling the box. Over this box was a cottage-roof arranged so as to allow a quarter-inch space for ventilation under what might be termed the eaves. The hive-entrances were $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch high, and were left open the whole width of the hive, slanting boards being placed over them to prevent the accumulation of snow and ice at the entrances. Mr. C. is a firm believer in the pollen and hibernation theories, and says that he makes his bees hibernate, and thus winters them safely.

The main honey-source in his section is white clover, and the quality of his present crop is very fine. Mr. Crist believes in the bee-keeper having a home market for his honey. He produces an excellent article, and then finds no difficulty in disposing of it all at a good price. On the very day that I called, he had sent a crate of 27 pounds to one of his many regular customers at a neighboring town, for

which he was to receive 20 cents per pound.

Mr. C. described his method of controlling swarming in strong colonies during the honey-flow, which I will briefly repeat: Suppose that the desired strength of a colony consists of 30,000 workers; and that the life of a worker in the busiest part of the season is only 42 days; consequently one-half of the 30,000 (or 15,000) workers will have perished at the end of every 21 days—the time required for a worker to hatch from the egg. Now, to replace these 15,000 workers will require 300 square inches of brood, which amount the queen is allowed to produce during every 21 days, and no more. Thus the colony will be kept at the desired strength, and as it does not become crowded for room, it has no inclination to swarm.

He also gave me a queen-cage, requesting me to have it placed in the BEE JOURNAL Museum, which is done, and will, no doubt, there be examined by many visitors. It is intended to be used for keeping queens for a day or two outside of the hive. It was invented by Mr. C. some 15 years ago, and has been in constant use ever since. Although he had heard of and experimented with a number of cages constructed for a similar purpose, yet none of them equalled this one in point of convenience and the accomplishment of the object desired. The following is a description of it:

It is made of $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch stuff, $3\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ inches, and $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches wide, in the similitude of a nailed section. One side is entirely covered with fine wire-cloth tacked on firmly; the other side is covered with a piece of glass made movable by its sliding under small wire pins which are driven into the edges of two sides of the cage, and then bent over the glass. The cage is divided into two compartments, by a wooden partition nearly as wide as the cage, which revolves by means of a pivot at each of its ends. At one end the pivot projects about half an inch, and is then bent so as to form a handle with which to turn the partition from the outside. Each compartment is entered by means of a half-inch hole at its end, which holes are covered with movable pieces of tin. In one compartment, and opposite the partition, is fastened a piece of honey-comb, into which the food is placed; and with this food are placed worker bees. Into the other compartment the queen is put, and by turning the partition slightly, the workers can feed her; or by turning it far enough she may be allowed to join the other bees.

The other apiary which I visited, was that of Mr. Benj. Harding, of Kent, Portage county. Mr. H. is comparatively a young apiarist, having recently begun keeping bees as an adjunct to his regular occupation—that of a butcher. He started with 14 colonies last spring, and now has 32; and 4 of the original number gave no swarms. His object has been that of increase rather than honey.

He keeps them in his garden, and the hives are partly shaded by berry

bushes, corn, etc. Nearly all of his bees are pure Italians, and usually very mild and gentle. It was astonishing to see with what expertness Mr. H. handled the frames, quilts, etc., of hive after hive. But if it was not more astonishing, it was immensely more interesting (to me, at least) to notice with what ease and gracefulness one of the apparently tired workers reposed on the back of my bare hand. Fearing that it might become rested too soon, and perhaps leave a rather "pointed" impression, in a manner not desirable to myself, I requested Mr. H. to blow some smoke upon it, and thus perhaps cause it to forsake its favorable position. But instead of flying away, as I had anticipated it would, to my surprise it merely moved up my arm seemingly on an exploring expedition in quest of honey. Foolish bee! it was not aware that however much one might read, write, talk or think about honey, these would not tend to make that person one whit sweeter.

All at once, judging from the peculiar sensations passing through my arm, I imagined that that little, tired worker had certainly discovered some new field in which to work, and was forthwith planting upon it the "colors" of its "colony," and "taking" the new territory in the name of the Queen of the hive. A few hours after this little episode occurred, my arm presented the appearance of a portion of land upon which the Mound Builders had erected one of their famous mounds. However, at the time, notwithstanding the hearty laugh of the jolly fat butcher (at my expense), we continued to investigate the workings of the hive, until we had examined nearly every colony of the apiary.

Mr. H. had 4 acres of Alsike clover, this season, on which the bees fairly swarmed. He cut it with a mowing-machine while it was still in bloom a little, and while the bees were working upon it, and they never offered to sting either the horses or the men. Surely, I thought, if bees would not attack anything under such circumstances, they certainly would not molest sheep, while the latter were quietly pasturing, as is claimed by that Wisconsin shepherd!

Since reflecting upon the valuable ideas which I gained while visiting these two bee-keepers, I have been impressed with the thought that if bee-men (and all farmers as well) would be more neighborly, and frequently compare their methods of operation, much greater advancement could be made; and perhaps the beneficial relations of bees to fruit and flowering crops in general, would be more commonly understood, and thus cause each one to respect the natural rights of another.

I feel amply repaid for the effort made in visiting the above-mentioned apiaries; also for making the trip to my native State; and I now feel sufficiently recuperated as to again resume my work in the Garden City of the West—Chicago.

Chicago, 6 Ills., Aug. 20, 1885.

For the American Bee Journal.

Foundation in the Brood-Nest.

8—W. Z. HUTCHINSON, (70—100).

It will be remembered, perhaps, that last year I experimented with a view to ascertaining if it was advisable to hive swarms upon sheets of foundation, when they were at the same time admitted to the surplus apartment that was furnished with either foundation or drawn combs. The result of my experience seemed to indicate that the foundation was used at a loss. I was not satisfied, however, and so I experimented again this year in much the same manner.

Fifty colonies were worked for comb honey. Nearly every colony swarmed. Twenty swarms were hived upon full sheets of wired foundation; and the rest of the swarms upon frames furnished with "starters" of foundation about $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch in width. The swarms were hived alternately, or nearly so, upon foundation and upon empty frames. They were given only five frames, and contractors used *à la* Heddon. By the way, I have used this contraction system three years, and I feel very grateful indeed to its originator. I had no after-swarming, thanks to the Heddon-method of prevention.

Now for the results: The swarms hived upon empty frames stored in the sections, on an average, 16 per cent. more honey than those furnished with foundation in the brood-nest. Last year, when I reported similar results, quite a number remarked, "That may all be true, but did you weigh the brood-nests? Those swarms that were furnished with foundation may have stored the most honey, but stored it in the brood nest." Unfortunately, I had not weighed the brood-nests, and thus there was an uncertainty about the results. This year I weighed the brood-nests, and was not surprised to find that those furnished with foundation weighed, on an average, 7 per cent. more than the others; but I was a little surprised to find that, including both the sections and the brood-nest, the swarms hived upon empty frames had stored 5 per cent. the most honey.

The 100 sheets of wired foundation which I have used this season in the brood-nest, have been, apparently, worse than wasted. I reason upon this matter as follows: When foundation is used it is soon drawn out into comb—sooner than the queen can occupy it with eggs—and the honey that would have been stored in the sections, if foundation had not been used, is stored in the brood nest. If no foundation is used in the brood-nest, except for starters, no honey can be stored there until comb is built; and as the sections are furnished with foundation, or drawn-out foundation, the honey is stored there, and the queen is able to and does lay in the comb as fast as it is finished in the brood-nest; thus all the honey goes into the sections, and the brood-nest becomes filled with solid sheets of brood.

Why the swarms hived upon empty frames stored the most honey in the aggregate, i. e., including the surplus and that in the brood-nest, I cannot explain. It may have only "happened so." It is possible that reversible frames might have a bearing upon this topic. After the combs are finished (when foundation is used) and filled with brood and honey, reversing then will induce the bees to carry up the honey that is stored above the brood, but it will not effect that stored at the side of the brood-nest, if there is any stored there. If only five frames are used, however, there will not be very much "side" to the brood-nest.

I shall continue these experiments at least another year, and possibly longer.

Rogersville, 6 Mich.

Exchange.

A Bee-Convention in Syria.

FRANK BENTON.

We had a bee-convention in Syria; or, rather, we have been having a series of them here recently. This may seem rather surprising news to people of the Western World, who suppose Syria is beyond the pale of civilization. But though the country is in many respects behind Europe and America, modern methods in bee-culture have now taken permanent root here. The gatherings have been quite informal in their nature, as close application of parliamentary rules in the conduct of such meetings is not the way of the country; moreover, of the seven or eight different languages represented by the members of the convention, four had to be employed in the talks on bees; namely, English, French, German and Arabic. Perhaps some of the friends in other countries, who find with but one official language in their conventions, it is still difficult to get on harmoniously, will wonder what we could do with such a Babel of tongues. Nevertheless we got on quite well, and the interchange of ideas will, no doubt, prove of great value to many of the participants. At one of the meetings a President was unanimously elected, but he has not yet called anybody to order. Probably the most important work done by the convention was the adoption of a standard frame for Syria, to be known as the "Syrian Standard Reversible Frame." All bee-keepers in countries where several sizes of frames have come into use, will comprehend at once the wisdom of such a step while movable-comb bee-keeping is yet in its infancy in these parts. The frame adopted measures $14\frac{3}{4}$ inches (= 365 mm.) in length, and $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches (= 223 mm.) in depth. All members of the convention, which include two Americans, one Frenchman, one German, one Italian, and a number of Syrians, follow American methods altogether in their apiaries, if we except one, a Syrian peasant who has but one frame-hive as yet, and for the present retains native hives—long cylinders made of clay or of wicker-work, and

also earthen water-jars, into both sorts of which the bees are put after the receptacle is laid on its side.

Among other topics which were discussed at our meetings, migratory bee-keeping (already largely practiced here) and hives adapted to it, received much attention; also in connection with this the various bee-ranges of the country were discussed. Orange-blossoms furnish the chief spring harvest, though almond, apricot, and other fruit-blossoms are of importance. Cactus-plants supplement these; in fact, in many localities they form the chief early honey-yield. The late harvest comes in mid-summer from wild thyme, which is abundant in most of the hilly and mountainous portions of the country. Of course, there are also many minor sources—wild flowers, etc. It was agreed that where orange, cactus and thyme blossoms were abundant, with the usual minor yields, nothing would be gained by transporting bees to other pastures.

The wintering problem did not get much attention, since there is no difficulty on that score here; nor did we devote very much time to a discussion of the relative merits of the different races of bees, as none but Syrians are kept in Syria. The writer, however, and a member formerly in his employ in Cyprus, testified to the superiority of the Cyprians over the Syrians. No other members had had any experience with Cyprians.

Altogether, a bee-convention in Syria may be considered an interesting and important event—interesting to the outside world as showing the progress already made, and that America has been taken as the model; important to the country itself, both because it is likely to spread greater interest in an industry which can be made to contribute much more than heretofore to the welfare of Syria, and because the proceedings are likely to induce a more systematic development of the industry in the East.

Our eyes are turned toward America for light in bee-keeping matters; and if the world hears of large reports from these shores of the Mediterranean, the credit of them will, it is to be hoped, go where it belongs.

Beyrout, Syria, May, 1885.

For the American Bee Journal.

Bee-Diarrhea—Contraction Method.

ABEL GRESH, (23—50).

In Mr. Heddon's article on page 519, he uses the word "prime" in an unwarranted sense. Webster, in his Unabridged Dictionary, gives the definition as, "First in order of time; original; primitive; primary," etc.; and this is the sense in which I, as well as Mr. Stewart and others, supposed was the sense when used in connection with the word "cause"—"prime cause" meaning "first cause," as generally accepted in our language.

Pollen, no doubt, may be a powerful adjunct-cause, but from all the

discussions of the "theory," during the last two seasons, I can give it no higher seat. We know that in case of the human family, the adjunct-causes of diarrhea, include very nearly all of our substantial foods; and what would be thought of the practitioner, who, in looking at the excreta, to find the cause of the disease, would banish meat, potatoes and vegetables from all our tables? Because he happened to notice these in the excreta, and he concludes they are the *prime* cause of the disease, no healthy person is safe unless he confines himself to bread and water! I doubt if intelligent persons would call for his services again.

No, this cause of bee-diarrhea must be looked for in some other quarter, than this theory that does not develop. I have for some time wondered if Mr. Heddon would adopt a deep-frame hive, whether he would not find a road leading toward one of the *prime* causes of bee-diarrhea, in comparing them with his long, shallow frames. Mr. D. A. Jones uses the deepest frame that I have learned of, and his apiaries seem nearly exempt from the dreaded disease.

In regard to Prof. Cook's opinion as to the cause of bee-diarrhea, I can only say: If the Professor does not say, on page 197, that some of Mr. Doolittle's bees that had the odor of the disease present, yet seemed to be without pollen, then I am unable to read correctly or understand what I read.

I did not think it unjust that Mr. Heddon did not read a certain old article of Mr. Doolittle's. I referred to an article by Mr. Doolittle entitled "Those Six-Frames," found on page 69 of the BEE JOURNAL for 1884. If contraction and expansion is not there systematized as summer and winter management, then I do not understand its meaning. If it is so systematized, did Mr. Heddon never see it before? If Mr. Heddon did read it before, then I say he is unjust to Mr. Doolittle, in not giving him the honor of priority in using the system, and claiming for himself the honor of only adapting the system to his style of hive.

I do not know what Mr. Heddon means that my last few years' practice should show. If he means that I should be practicing expansion and contraction of the brood-combs in my hives, I can assure him such is the case, as I use Gallup hives 18 inches long with 7 brood-combs, at present, to each hive, and wide-frames at the ends, according to Mr. Doolittle's plan or system as quoted.

I would also state in this connection, that I am using 10 slotted honey-boards on my hives for trial, and I am so well pleased with their use, in connection with crates, that I shall adopt them generally next season. I was so disgusted with bees sticking crates to the tops of the frames last season, that I had almost determined to use wide-frames in full upper stories in preference; but now the crate suits me best, when used with a Heddon slotted honey-board. I also intend to give the Heddon crates, adapted to

my hive, a trial next season, as my present plain crate seems capable of being improved upon.

My desire is to give bee-keeping a fair trial, and if I succeed in wintering my bees as I have done, and they increase as rapidly as they have for the last three seasons, I will be obliged to drop all else in order to give them proper attention.

Weedville, © Pa.

Country Gentleman.

Wind-Breaks in the Open Northwest.

J. W. CLARKE.

Substantially in all the open Northwest, much of which is prairie, wind-breaks have been very generally advocated and practically patronized; and wide experience has shown that the grey or white willow makes the most effective wind-break, when properly set out and cultivated afterward, of the four kinds of trees that have been used to resist high winds. This white willow—the name probably having been suggested by the whitish color of the twigs and branches when the green bark is stripped off—was called the Huntingdon willow until about 30 years ago. It is the most valuable tree that we have in the great Northwest.

The cottonwood is our best grove-tree, being large, tall and handsome, when six to ten years grown. It grows too tall, and does not sucker or throw up from the ground half as many branches as the willow.

The box-alder is a more picturesque form of tree, growing always crooked in stem and branch; but even if it grew as straight and smooth, the alder does not grow more than half as fast as the willow.

Soft maple is considerably patronized as a grove-tree, but its suckering habit makes a great deal more labor to keep the suckers down, and so allows heads to form. When quite young, maple groves are handsome, but a good looking maple grove that has been growing ten years, is hard to find, as the trees vary so much in height and form, and want of similarity. The maple is at present, moreover, badly affected with leaf-rust, from cell rupture, in many groves set out within two or three years. On account of comparatively slow and uneven growth, the maple does not approach the willow as a wind break in the Northwest.

By "wind-break," a thick-set growth at the ground is meant—a growth of nearly uniform thickness formed and made effective according to the filling out, or the number of shoots growing directly from near the ground surface, in which feature the willow leads and excels all the varieties of cottonwood, maple, box-alder and ash—the only sorts generally grown with success in this part of the Northwest.

Then, as to hardness and power to recuperate after severe injury, the white willow will grow up again and again from the roots, even after the top growth has all been killed by burning—a fate which happens to it

in numbers of cases. In fact, some thirty or forty rods of this willow has been twice burned off on one of my farms, but has thrown a fine, thrifty growth since. So the total destruction of the willow by fire, if burnt before the leaves are formed in the spring, need not be feared. Willow wind-breaks are so uniform in height and shape of growth as to make a very neat and pleasing appearance.

The late powerful hurricane, which destroyed churches by the half-dozen, houses by the score, and barns and stables by the hundred, has proved the great importance and necessity of groves, and particularly willow wind-breaks, for protecting houses and all sorts of buildings. Where well protected, no serious damage to buildings resulted from the hurricane. Three rows of willow wind-break saved a large stable and three cribs full of corn for me. Two rows of willows, the cuttings being one foot apart in the row, and the rows at least eight feet apart, make an effective wind-break after four years' growth.

When the wind violently strikes a bank, or rising ground, it must rise to pass over. When it strikes a building, the structure must go down, or the wind must rise and pass over it. If a two or three row wind-break of thickly growing willows intervenes, so that it intercepts the head of wind before it reaches the building, it will be saved. The willows bend somewhat as the wind-force increases, but still raise the current of air, so that its direction is mainly over the top. Three-fourths of the damage by the late terrific hurricane would have been prevented by efficient wind-breaks.

Having had considerable experience with it in Wisconsin, I will say a word about the basket willow, which, if a third row were added outside two rows of white willow, would make a very complete and effective resisting barrier. It is a smaller growing sort, and all its twigs and branches are fine and tough, making a thicker growth, that would prevent wind, sleet and snow alike from driving through and remaining too late inside the shelter before thawing in the spring. Two rows of white willow, and a third of the smaller basket willow—*Salix purpurea*—the latter set either inside or outside, and not nearer than eight feet, would make a most durable barrier against both wind and snow, while still admitting a full and free circulation of pure air.

Plymouth County, © Iowa.

Philadelphia Press.

Lamentable Ignorance about Bees.

PROF. A. J. COOK.

A novel lawsuit is now pending in the State of Wisconsin. A Mr. Powers is a large land-owner, and keeps a large number of sheep. His neighbor, Mr. Freeborn, is a very successful and extensive bee-keeper. Mr. P. has noticed that his acres of white clover, where his sheep are pastured, are swarming with bees—presumably,

though it would be hard to prove, Mr. Freeborn's. Mr. P. also notices that his sheep run from the clover to the fence corners. Who has not noticed the same thing in the summer when that dreaded enemy, the sheep bot-fly (*Estrus ovis*) attempts to attach its eggs to the nose of the sheep? Ignorant of the true cause, this Wisconsin shepherd blames the bees, and thus brings suit against Mr. F. for heavy damages.

Perhaps no point in science is more fully proven than that bees are of great value in fertilizing such flowers as they visit for pollen and nectar. If Mr. Powers understood the case aright, he would feel very kindly towards Mr. F. and his bees, and would, instead of prosecuting, kill the fattest and plumpest lamb in the flock and send it as a just reward to Mr. Freeborn.

The bee-keepers of the country have become thoroughly aroused because of this unrighteous procedure, and have organized and raised hundreds of dollars to insure a just verdict in this case, in which they all feel a deep interest. That bees may sometimes become a nuisance about cider-mills, vineyards, etc., there is no question; that they are ever anything but a signal advantage to plants in visiting the flowers, is also beyond question. Of course there can be no doubt as to the results of this suit. A verdict against the bees would be a sad comment on our nineteenth-century civilization.

Agricultural College, ♀ Mich.

For the American Bee Journal.

Sheep vs. Bees in Germany.

C. J. H. GRAVENHORST.

I have read with interest the articles in the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, on the sheep-bees lawsuit. The article entitled, "Can Bees Commit Trespass?" I have translated for the September issue of my *Illustrierte Bienen-Zeitung*.

Some years ago we had a similar suit in Germany. There were two landlords, brothers, in one province of Prussia, who had a sheep-pasture that was covered with *Erica vulgaris*, or common heath. (If I do not err, in America it is called sourwood). The bee-keepers of the surrounding country would take their bees (many hundreds of colonies) to this place, in a neighboring wood, from which they could reach the heath.

The landlords would not endure this, claiming that the bees drove the sheep from their feeding-place. In order to stop it, the landlords ordered one of their servants to make some wooden-boxes, and besmear them on the inside with honey; as soon as thousands of the bees filled the boxes he killed the bees with sulphur. In a short time all the bees were dead.

The bee-keepers then made the landlords defendants in a suit, the result of which was that the landlords had to pay all the damages and the costs of the suit—about \$1,500.

Glöwen, Prussia, Aug. 5, 1885.

For the American Bee Journal.

Among the Bees in Summer.

17—G. M. DOOLITTLE, (50—100).

Continuing the subject of my last article on page 502, I wish to say a little more regarding swarming.

As the season advances to the commencement of the basswood honey-harvest, I operate differently with all swarms which issue at this time, and later, adopting the following plan: As soon as a swarm is seen issuing, I take six frames of comb and two wide frames of sections, putting the same into a box or hive which is convenient to carry, and when I arrive at the hive from which the swarm is coming out, I take the frames from the box and place them down by the hive. The hive is now opened, and all the frames of brood and honey, with the adhering bees, taken out and put into the box, after which the two wide frames are placed one at each side of the hive, and the six frames of comb put between them. The hive is now re-arranged and closed.

If the weather is warm, and there are many bees on the frames of brood in the box, about one-third of them are shook off in front of the hive, when the box is placed in the shade a rod or two away, so none of the bees from the swarm will find it while they are being hived, which is the next thing I do—hiving them in the re-arranged hive on the old stand. If the weather is cool, or but few bees are on the combs of brood, omit the shaking off, for it will want all of them to keep the brood in good condition.

Now take the box and place the combs in an empty hive, placing the hive where you wish it to stand, and after all is nicely fixed, leave them until the next morning. At any time during the forenoon give them a virgin queen or a queen-cell just ready to hatch, and you will have no trouble with after-swarms, for the bees feel so poor at this time that they are glad of anything in the shape of a queen.

However, if the delay is longer than 18 hours, they often get so strengthened by the rapidly hatching brood, that they will destroy the queen-cell, or kill the virgin queen, and after-swarming will result. Do not give them a laying-queen, unless you wish a prime swarm from the colony in two weeks or so. By this plan I get a powerful colony on the old stand, which will do as much, if not more, in the sections than they would if they had not swarmed, for a swarm will work with a vigor not known to bees under any other circumstances.

In ten days, if the honey-harvest continues, sections are given to the colony which has rapidly increased to such, from the combs of brood carried in the box, and as the young queen has now commenced to lay, the bees will at once go into the sections, often giving a good yield of honey.

From such a colony I have just taken off 42 pounds of honey, in sections, while the swarm hived on the old stand has given 71 pounds, making 113 pounds from what was a weak

colony in the spring. As all will note, this is only carrying out the same principle I spoke of in the other article, which is, to have the bees as free from the swarming-fever as possible during the honey harvest.

As I am now taking off honey in sections, perhaps I cannot do better in concluding this article than to tell just how I do it. The larger part of my hives are boxed at the sides and top, the top boxes being put on first, so as to have them filled first. Again, the top sections were filled with foundation while only starters were used in those at the side, so that as a rule the top sections are all completed while those at the sides are only filled with comb which is two-thirds full of honey, the bees just commencing to seal it at the top of each section. I explain this so the reader can readily see the shape the honey is in, also the plan of working.

Being ready, I lift off the cover to the hive, and then take off one of the side boards covering the first wide frame at the top (I use wide-frames, not cases), when I blow a little smoke on the bees. This causes them to run down into the hive, and over into the next wide frame of sections. I now blow smoke through the holes which the bees always leave in the upper corners of their combs, next the sections, puffing it quite hard, which causes the smoke to go nearly across the whole number of wide-frames, filling each space between the sections with smoke, which causes the bees to leave them and run below. After giving them a half moment of time to get below, I commence taking off the wide-frames, one after the other, until past the centre, when I again blow a little more smoke in at the holes, so as to send it through to the opposite outside wide-frame from where I commenced, when the rest are taken off. In this way the whole top is taken off with scarcely a bee left on the wide-frames of honey.

I now raise the nearly filled wide-frames, from the sides of the hive to the top, putting in wide-frames of sections having starters in them, at the sides. In a week or so the same operation is repeated, in the meantime having emptied the filled wide-frames, putting the honey in the honey-room, and filling the frames with sections again, ready to take the place of those raised from the sides.

Many seem to think this wide-frame system a laborious plan, but after carefully testing it with other plans given, I cannot see that they have as much labor-saving to recommend them over this, as some would have us think; while I firmly believe that the principle I have here given, regarding the using of wide-frames, will secure a better yield of honey than any other known.

Borodino, © N. Y.

The next meeting of the "Patsalaga Bee-Keepers' Society" will be held at the residence of the President, Mr. J. R. McLendon, at Ramer, Ala., on Sept. 10, 1885. It is hoped that the membership will be largely increased at this meeting, and that all who can will attend. M. G. RUSHTON, Sec.

For the American Bee Journal.

Extracted Honey.

W. G. FISH.

Honey, as an article of food, has been known since very ancient times. We find it mentioned many times in Holy writ, and to reside in "a land flowing with milk and honey" (two of the most strengthening and nutritious of food-substances) was the desire of the ancient Jews. Honey is the only pure natural sweet found, and as such it commands a high place in the products of the world; and extracted honey is rapidly taking its rightful place in the front rank of honey-products.

The only liquid honey with which people were formerly familiar, was the old-fashioned "strained honey" which was taken by mashing combs, bee-bread, dead bees and larvæ, in a sticky mess, and heating, when a dark, rank, turbid honey would be obtained, which contained a considerable quantity of bee-bread, legs and wings of bees, etc. It was honey coarse in flavor and most repulsive in its associations. Extracted honey is honey in its purest condition—exactly as gathered by the bees—without any foreign admixture whatever. It can only be produced through the modern methods of scientific bee-culture—by the use of movable-comb hives and the honey-extractor—in the following way:

The apiarist goes to the hive from which he wishes to extract, removes the cover and carefully raises the quilt that covers the frames, at the same time directing a stream of smoke from his smoker upon the bees, which alarms them and before which they retreat. He then lifts out the surplus combs, gives them a shake to dislodge the bees, brushes off all that remain, and carries the combs to the extracting-room. The caps of the cells, if they are capped, are shaved off with a sharp knife, and the combs then put into the extractor. If water is poured upon a rapidly revolving grindstone it flies off because of the force of the motion imparted to it. This force is called centrifugal force, and the honey-extractor applies this force in such a way that it throws the honey from the combs which are left entire, to be returned to the bees to be again filled and extracted, and so on till the end of the honey-flow.

The honey, when drawn from the extractor, has a bright, sparkling clearness never seen in strained honey, and retains all the flavor and perfume of the particular flowers from which it was gathered. By this means it will be seen that we can preserve the identity of the clover, basswood and buckwheat honey.

This honey will granulate or candy in cool weather as will, in fact, any pure honey, unless heated and sealed while hot. This granulation is a test of its purity, and while in that state, it will keep for any length of time, and may easily be liquidized by placing the vessel containing it in warm water. When served upon the tea-table as a sauce to biscuits or hot-

rolls, it makes a fine appearance, and is relished by every one; and nothing is better for breakfast than hot cakes and honey. Thus the superiority of extracted honey, and its special superiority over strained, will be recognized.

Ithaca, N. Y.

Prairie Farmer.

Bee-Keepers at the Fairs.

MRS. L. HARRISON.

All bee-keepers ought to be interested in looking after and preparing an apiarian exhibit for State, county and district Fairs this autumn. At no other time or place, as at these great popular schools, can people see the importance of this industry. Honey has generally been regarded as a luxury, or a medicine, and not as a food for every man's table. People must be taught that it is an excellent article of diet, far more healthful than the syrups in the market; besides, for several years, it has been sold cheaper than butter.

For these reasons, quantities of the honey of each State should be on exhibition at their respective State Fairs; samples of all the different kinds produced, from the earliest spring honey to the latest gathered in autumn. Some bee-keepers think they have done their whole duty when they put on exhibition a few pounds of white clover or basswood honey, and many persons are led to think that all the honey the exhibitors produce is of that kind. The public must be taught that neither the bees nor their owners make honey, but that bees gather it from flowers.

Apple honey is dark, but fine-flavored, resembling the aroma of roses; that from the raspberry is light and of a delicate flavor. The justly celebrated white clover is light, and the comb is very delicate. The linden or basswood produces light brown honey, very rich in vegetable oil. Goldenrod gives it rich and thick, and of a golden color. The autumn honeys, in many seasons, appear to be mixed, different flowers such as asters, polygonum, and many others blooming at the same time. Honey-dew, bark-lice or "bug-juice," is generally very dark, and of a sickening flavor, and the comb has no strength; sometimes the honey looks as if sooty water from a coal chimney was mixed with it.

It would be well for the bee-keepers to fill cases of comb and extracted honey of all kinds produced by them, and label them—as, apple, raspberry, white clover, etc., in large letters. Persons have said to the writer that they thought bees made honey, and that it was all alike.

In order to facilitate the introduction of honey, let exhibitors have small packages of honey for sale, in such shape as to be readily carried. At a Fair in Toronto, Canada, one autumn, a prominent bee-keeper sold hundred's of tiny tin-buckets containing a few ounces of fine extracted honey, at a nickle apiece. By so doing many persons to whom honey was a

strange food, got a taste of it, and an appetite was acquired, creating a demand for it in that market. Paper boxes or buckets with handles are just the thing in which to carry a one-pound section. With the aid of these, many pounds of honey might be sold at Fairs.

In getting up an exhibit, beeswax is not to be forgotten; arrange it in attractive form. A collection of honey-plants, mounted and arranged scientifically, would add to the value of the exhibit. Dealers in apiarian supplies should exhibit their goods so that the people may have an opportunity of knowing what modern bee-keeping is, and of judging intelligently.

Peoria, Ills.

Mistakes in Bee-Keeping.

It is a mistake to invest very largely in any business that you are not acquainted with; better post yourself thoroughly before commencing.

It is a mistake not to feed bees before blossoms appear in the spring, to encourage breeding.

It is a mistake not to have your colonies strong at all seasons of the year.

It is a mistake to neglect to put on supers early enough in the spring, if comb honey is required for breeding purposes.

It is a mistake not to use comb foundation; for by its use we can always depend upon straight combs and greater conveniences for handling.

It is a mistake to neglect to remove all full boxes or sections as soon as properly sealed. Bees sometimes soil them by traveling over them with their dirty feet.

It is a mistake not to supply an abundance of room for them to store their surplus, when honey is plentiful. Bees often remain idle for want of space to store their treasure.

It is a mistake to extract or take honey from the bees too late in the season without supplying them with more. It is cruel to rob them and then leave them to starve.

It is a mistake to visit the bees too often during the winter; better have their winter quarters so constructed that their condition can be ascertained without disturbing them. — *Fireside Friend*.

Convention Notices.

The Kentucky State Bee-Keepers' Society will meet in Walker Hall, at Covington, Ky., on Sept. 23 and 24, 1885. The Reverend L. L. Langstroth is expected to be present, and all bee-keepers are invited to attend.
J. T. CONNLEY, Sec.

The Progressive Bee-Keepers' Association, of Western Illinois, will meet at Macomb, Ills., on Thursday, Oct. 15, 1885. Let everybody come and have an enjoyable time. Good speakers are expected.
J. G. NORTON, Sec.

The 3rd annual convention of the Iowa State Bee-Keepers' Association will be held on the Fair Grounds at Des Moines, Iowa, during the Fair week. The first meeting will be held at the bee-keepers' tent, on Tuesday, Sept. 8, at 2 p. m.; also there will be a meeting held on each succeeding night, or as often as the convention may desire.

Local Convention Directory.

1885. Time and place of Meeting.
- Sept. 3.—Eastern Indiana, at Richmond.
M. G. Reynolds, Sec.
- Sept. 8—12.—Iowa State, at Des Moines, Iowa.
Wm. Goos, Sec., Davenport, Iowa.
- Sept. 10.—Patsalaga, at Ramer, Alabama.
M. G. Rushton, Sec., Raif Branch, Ala.
- Sept. 23, 24.—Kentucky State at Covington, Ky.
J. T. Counley, Sec., Napoleon, Ky.
- Oct. 10.—Wabash County, at N. Manchester, Ind.
J. J. Martin, Sec., N. Manchester, Ind.
- Oct. 15.—Progressive, at Macomb, Ills.
J. G. Norton, Sec., Macomb, Ills.
- Dec. 8—10.—Michigan State, at Detroit, Mich.
H. D. Cutting, Sec., Clinton, Mich.
- Dec. 8—10.—North American, at Detroit, Mich.
W. Z. Hutchinson, Sec., Rogersville, Mich.

In order to have this table complete, Secretaries are requested to forward full particulars of time and place of future meetings.—ED.

SELECTIONS FROM OUR LETTER BOX

Almost a Frost.—G. M. Doolittle, Borodino, N. Y., on Aug. 27, 1885, says:

It is cold and wet here. It was nearly cold enough for a frost on the night of Aug. 25.

Coldest Summer Month.—James Heddon, Dowagiac, Mich., says:

August, with us, was the coldest summer month on record, for 17 years. October would be ashamed of such a temperature. Myriads of flowers are open, and only waiting for warmth to fill with nectar. If this weather continues, our colonies will have nothing to winter upon, or to exchange for sugar syrup. I will soon endeavor to make myself clearer to Mr. Stewart, upon the contraction system, as adapted to wintering.

Bees and Ducks.—H. Raisch, Vine-land, N. J., on Aug. 25, 1885, says:

I hope and wish that the case of sheep vs. bees will get the deserved victory in favor of the bees. A few of my very young ducks amused themselves by catching bees that also came to the pump for water. Some of the ducks died, others I happened to find in time, and extracted the bee-stings out of the roof of their beaks, and saved them by milking a little milk in their beaks. Now, if the bees would have been another man's, would it have been sensible for me to ask him for damage? Decidedly no.

Fastening Hives Down.—Geo. M. Bishop, Indianapolis, Ind., writes:

Being away from home about three years ago, my wife sent me word that the bees needed attention. When I reached home I found the hives scattered over the yard, and the air full of bees—all I suppose except those that were killed. I began to think of some plan by which I could prevent a similar catastrophe, and the idea came to me of placing a stake on each side of

the hive, extending to the top of the brood-chamber, and driving a staple in one stake, to which was to be fastened a strong wire which was then carried over the hive and fastened to the other stake by a ring being on that end of the wire, which was to hang on a heavy spike driven into that stake. If I desired it very secure, I could place a wedge on top of the hive and under the wire. I never used it unless the weather indications were of a threatening nature.

Defending our Pursuit, etc.—G. C. Greiner, Naples, N. Y., on Aug. 27, 1885, writes:

It seems strange, and I am sorry to see it, that bee-keepers do not make a better showing in taking the effectual step for the defense of their occupation, when so unjustly attacked. Can it be possible that the claimant in the sheep-and-bee lawsuit is sincere in the belief of his claim? and if so, can it also be possible that an otherwise probably enlightened mind, in these days of progress and advancement in all branches, can be so terribly in the dark about matters that are daily before our eyes, and which the slightest observation would prove false or correct, as the case might be? On page 243 occurred a slight mistake, which I wish to correct. Tuisco Greiner was represented as one of the firm of Greiner Bros., engaged in bee-keeping; this is not the case, as he has been in the seed-business for years, and is now engaged in horticultural literature. The firm of Greiner Bros. consists of Friedemann Greiner, who is, this season, on an exploring excursion in the northern part of Virginia, for the purpose of investigating the honey-resources of that locality, and myself, at Naples, N. Y., engaged, as heretofore, in keeping bees. The present season's honey-crop will be quite satisfactory. Basswood yielded heavily, and bees are now at work on the buckwheat. It is yet too early to give a specified report of the crop, but I will do so at the proper time, and will also add a report of last winter's loss.

A Bee in a Shaving-Saloon.

The New Orleans Times-Democrat tells this amusing story:

While the German proprietor of the barber-shop was shaving a fat man, and saying, "It was a warm day, and if it don't get cooler ve melts," a bee came and buzzed around the ear of the fat man, who became nervous and slapped at it viciously. Then the bee soared around in a short circle, and endeavored to make a landing and rest on the German barber's nose, who in turn wiped the air with both hands in a foolish attempt to kill the annoying insect, but the bee darted at him, and he dodged behind the chair and yelled to the shop boy: "Hans, come here right away und make de bee go away." Hans obeyed instructions, and seeing the bee humming lazily around, he opened on it with a wet towel, and the first swash

he made knocked a couple of globes off the gas-fixtue, and the bee retaliated by stinging him on the lip. This excited Hans, who charged around the shop after the bee, and worked his towel so vigorously that he succeeded in whacking every customer that occupied a chair, and caused an irate Frenchman to exclaim: "Sacre! what for you heet me when you knock at ze leetle bug. Aha! by gar, don't do zat some more."

About this time the bee flew along the line of chairs, and coming to a bald-headed man tried to graze around on his pate, but the attending barber struck at him with a hair-brush, whereupon the bee hit him under the left ear, and then charged the whole shop. It buzzed in a way that indicated it meant business, and after tapping the Frenchman on the nose, the German proprietor over the eye, and the fat man on the chin, it managed to array the wounded men against it. The Frenchman, who was wild with rage, clutched a dusting-brush, the fat man a broom, and the German barber an umbrella. Each man kept his eye fixed on the bee, and noticed nothing else, and struck at it with all their strength. The first volley of blows aimed at the agile honey-maker resulted in the Frenchman being knocked down by the fat man's broom, while the barber peeled all the skin off his nose with the umbrella. The excitement was so great and the fight was so hot that neither the barber nor the fat man noticed that the Frenchman had received their blows, hit with their eyes still fixed on the bee, and mistaking the yells of the prostrate Frenchman for encouraging shouts, they continued to strike at the bee with all their strength, which invariably missed the bee and hit the unfortunate man on the floor, and had not a policeman, attracted by howls and the sound of breaking glass, entered the shop, he would have been beaten to a pulp. It is not necessary to say that the bee, as soon as it grew tired of punching the heads of the whole crowd, escaped without a bruise, and left the German barber and the fat man to explain matters with the unfortunate Frenchman.

To create Honey Markets in every village, town and city, wide-awake honey producers should get the Leaflets "Why Eat Honey" (only 50 cents per 100), or else the pamphlets on "Honey as Food and Medicine," and scatter them plentifully, and the result will be a DEMAND for all of their crops at remunerative prices. "Honey as Food and Medicine" are sold at the following prices:

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The 4th semi-annual meeting of the Wabash County Bee-Keepers' Association will be held at North Manchester, Ind., on Oct. 10, 1885, in the G. A. R. Hall, Union Block. First session at 10 a. m. All beekeepers are cordially invited to be present.
J. J. MARTIN, Sec.

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To Correspondents.—It would save us much trouble, if all would be particular to give their P. O. address and name, when writing to this office. We have several letters (some inclosing money) that have no name; many others having no Post-Office, County or State. Also, if you live near one post-office and get your mail at another, be sure to give the address we have on our list.

If your wrapper-label reads Sept. 85, please remember that your subscription runs out with this month. Renew at once, so as not to lose any numbers.

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Honey and Beeswax Market.

Office of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL,
Monday, 10 a. m., Aug. 31, 1885.

The following are the latest quotations for honey and beeswax received up to this hour:

CHICAGO.

HONEY.—Receipts of comb honey are coming more freely, and the demand is about equal to it. Yet 15c per pound is all that can be obtained. Extracted honey ranges from 58c for the different grades and styles of packages.

BEESWAX—22½c 23c.

R. A. BURNETT, 161 South Water St.

BOSTON.

HONEY.—There is no change in the market, to speak of. We have had some new Vermont white clover honey in 1-lb. sections, which is very fine. There is a large crop in that State. Prices remain as follows: For 1-lb. sections, 16½c; for 2-lb., 14½c. There is little or no sale for extracted.

BEESWAX—30 cts. per lb.

BLAKE & RIPLEY, 87 Chatham Street.

NEW YORK.

HONEY.—The honey market is very quiet, and will continue so until fall trade opens up. Some old stock is on the market yet, with small shipments of new comb honey arriving. Southern extracted honey is coming in very freely. Quotations are as follows for comb honey: Fancy white in 1-lb. sections, 14½c; fair to good in 1-lb. sections, 12½c; fancy white in 2-lb. sections, 13½c; fair to good in 2-lb. sections, 11½c; fancy buckwheat in 1-lb. sections, 9½c; fancy buckwheat in 2-lb. sections, 7½c. Extracted white clover, 6½c; buckwheat, 5½c; Southern, per gallon, 55½c.

BEESWAX—Prime yellow, 25½c 28c.

MCCAUL & HILDETH BROS., 34 Hudson St.

CINCINNATI.

HONEY.—The market is quiet with fair demand for extracted, and an abundance of offerings from commission houses and producers. Prices range between 46½c on arrival. There is but little new comb honey in the market, with an occasional demand. Prices nominal.

BEESWAX—Is in fair demand with liberal offerings, and brings 24½c on arrival.

C. F. MUTH, Freeman & Central Ave.

SAN FRANCISCO.

HONEY.—New comb honey sells slowly because of last year's crop now on hand. We now quote—Extracted, old dark 4½c; new white, 5½c 6c; dark, 4½c 5c. No extra white coming forward.

BEESWAX—Quotable at 23c.—wholesale.

O. B. SMITH & CO., 423 Front Street.

CLEVELAND.

HONEY.—The new crop is beginning to arrive and is selling at 14½c 15 cts. per lb. for choice 1-lb. sections. Old honey is very dull—none selling although freely offered at 10½c 12 cts. Extracted, as usual is not in demand in our market.

BEESWAX—20½c 22 cts. per lb.

A. C. KENDAL, 115 Ontario Street.

KANSAS CITY.

HONEY.—Trade in this article is very quiet just now. Nothing sells at this time of year except extracted honey, in bulk and small glasses and tins of honey. Some large sales of extracted this week at 5½c for southern, and 6½c for clover and sage. Comb honey nominal, at 12½c 13c for choice white 2-lb. sections, and 13½c 14c for 1-lb.

BEESWAX—Weak at 20½c.

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The National Bee-Keepers' Union.

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